fighter aircraft. Contract for the upgradation of only MiG-21 Bis aircraft has been signed in 1996. MiG-21 aircraft has never been upgraded earlier.

(b) The contract for the upgrade of 125 MiG-21 Bis aircraft was signed in March 1996, with Russia. The total cost of the upgrade is 626 million US Dollars.

The design and develpment work on two MiG-21 Bis aircraft is being undertaken in Russia, which is in the final stage of completion. Concurrently, the upgradation of the remaining 123 aircraft has commenced at HAL, Nasik and is expected to be completed by the year 2004.

(c) Avionics and weapons upgrade planned for the MiG-21 Bis aircraft ate expected to enhance its striking capability and improve flight safety.

(d) Replacement of old aircraft is an on going process. MiG-21 aircraft would also be replaced on expiry of its technical life.

Hand Gloves for Troops

1387. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper hand gloves are provided to soldiers on duty in Kargil for the extreme cold conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how the soldiers are working in—30 degrees celcius exposed to frostbite?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gloves glacier developed by DRDO together-with Gloves Inner procured ex-import are provided to soldiers on duty in Kargil:

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Proper hand gloves are provided to the soldiers to ensure adequate warmth in extreme cold conditions.

Another Kargil like attack from Pakistan

†1388. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is planning to make another attack like Kargil;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Certain readjustments and reinforcements by Pakistan on the Line of Control and Creek Areas have been reported. Some Pakistani reserve formations have been moved from their permanent locations but have not yet been deployed near the border.

Our troops have been alerted and are vigilant to effectively counter any Pakistani threat. Additional forces have been inducted into J & K and have been earmarked and kept ready to react to any misadventure Pakistan might undertake.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.